REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1-2. Claims 1, 5-6, 9-10 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) by Downey

Claim 1 (upon which 5-6, 9-10 and 13 depend) is amended herein per Examiner's recommendation (pg. 5 of 12-1-05 Office Action) to more clearly distinguish it from Downey. Specifically, Claim 1 now describes "...a plurality of individual hard or rigid vibration transmitting elements which are adhered to or in direct contact only with said club shaft and not one another (not an integral intermediate tube or jacket like Downey or Kobayashi) some or all of said elements also contacting a golfer's hand or hands...and wherein the grip area around said elements is comprised of a layer of one or more softer or energy absorbing grip materials adhered to or in direct contact with said shaft..." (again not an intermediate tube or jacket like Downey or Kobayashi).

For the record, Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's (12-1-05, pg. 2, para 2 and pg. 4-5, para 6) description of Downey's "...elements being selectively positioned with(in) a grip at locations where transmissions are desired to be greatest...and omitted at locations where undesirable impact vibrations are greatest..." No where in his Specification, Drawings or Claims does Downey describe, show or claim selective placement of his elements for enhanced good vibration or reduced bad vibration transmission. In all cases, Downey's elements are uniformly (not selectively) distributed throughout the grip both radially and longitudinally (axially) and thus transmit all vibrations good and bad. Examiner, in pg. 4-5, para 6, argues Downey's grip "...can be placed such that elements are where it is desirable to have the greatest vibrations transmitted and elements are omitted where vibrations are undesirable." Examiner also states, "...since Downey designed the grip with the structure it has, the elements are

positioned where it is desirable to have greater vibrations since the elements are more rigid and elements are omitted where it is desirable not to have greater vibrations. Downey would not have formed the grip as disclosed if the vibration profile was not desirable. Since Downey designed the grip, all the characteristics of this grip are desirable including the vibration profile..." (underlines are by Applicant)

Downey does not and can not place his grip elements to selectively transmit desirable vibrations and not undesirable vibrations because:

1. His grip is designed to "increase tortional stability" in full swing clubs (not influence vibration transmission in putters) and thus his elements must be numerous and uniformly (not selectively) distributed both radially and axially.

2. Any and all vibration transmission with full swing clubs is undesirable because of the magnitude of such full swing impact vibrations which are severe and potentially injurious to golfers. Downey, like all full swing grip designers, is attempting to minimize all vibration transmission while increasing tortional stability for improved ball target line accuracy.

3. Because all of Downey's projections are integral with or emanating from a common inner tube or jacket and thus interconnected with said jacket will distribute all vibrations to all elements if it is rigid; he can not isolate or insulate individual projections vibrationally.

There is no basis in Downey for assuming "Downey would not have formed the grip as disclosed if the vibration profile was not desirable" or "since Downey designed the grip, all the characteristics of his grip are desirable including the vibration absorption profile..."

Downey designed the grip for increased tortional stability (for tortional accuracy) while preserving as much total (not selective) shock absorption as possible. These two objectives always work against each other in full swing grips, but not putters. Downey never addresses putters.

3-4. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Downey in view of Kobayashi.

Claim 12, as amended, depends on amended Claim 1 which now claims a plurality of individual elements which directly contact only a golf club shaft, not each other or a common tube or inner jacket like both Downey and Kobayashi! Additionally, the soft energy absorbing elastomer surrounding the independent elements of the present invention also is adhered to or directly contacts the shaft, not the inner tube or jacket of Downey or Kobayashi.

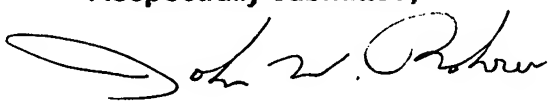
5. Claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Downey in view of Kobayashi.

Claim 19, as amended, depends on amended Claim 1, and as Examiner recommended, has removed the objectionable phase "or relocate."

Conclusion

In view of the above amended Claims and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the Claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested and allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



John W. Rohrer

Rohrer Technologies, Inc.
5 Long Cove Road
York, ME 03909
(207) 363-5502